

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUWAIT 03760 070751Z

12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 AID-20 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01

SP-03 DRC-01 /084 W

----- 060940

R 070551Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0800

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 3760

FROM PAGANELLI EMBASSY DOHA

DEPT PASS COMMERCE

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP ETRD

SUBJ: AMIR OF QATAR'S VIEW ON ROLE OF US IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT

1. DURING AUG 29 CONVERSATION WITH AMIR OF QATAR, I STATED THAT A PRIMARY MISSION OF EXPANDED US PRESENCE HERE WAS TO DEEPEN ECONOMIC AND COMMERCIAL TIES. KHALIFA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME INCREASED AMERICAN BUSINESS ACTIVITY HERE.

2. I THEN MENTIONED TO HIM THAT IN MY BRIEF TIME HERE I HAD NOTICED SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS UNDER BRITISH, FRENCH AND JAPANESE AUSPICES, AND THAT A VERY VISIBLE US PROJECT WOULD HELP ATTRACT ADDITIONAL AMERICAN BUSINESS INTERESTS TO QATAR. IN THIS CONTEXT, I MENTIONED THE INTENSE INTEREST OF US FIRMS IN TWO UP-COMING PROJECTS, CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HOSPITAL AND BUILDING OF NEW OIL REFINERY.

3. KHALIFA RESPONDED THAT ALTHOUGH CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS WERE IMPORTANT ACTIVITY, THEY WERE OF HERE-TODAY-AND-GONE-TOMORROW VALUE. RATHER, HE SAID HE WANTED US FIRMS TO TAKE PART IN THE INDUSTRIALIZATION OF QATAR ON A PARTICIPATION BASIS, SINCE HE BELIEVED THAT THIS WOULD BE A MORE PERMANENT AND

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PAGE 02 KUWAIT 03760 070751Z

MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, FOREIGN INVESTMENT, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974KUWAIT03760
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740249-0276
From: KUWAIT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740966/aaaacdpx.tel
Line Count: 62
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 AUG 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMIR OF QATAR'S VIEW ON ROLE OF US IN COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, US, QA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005